ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus are provided that quickly and efficiently closes a stream between two communicating terminals that use repeating time slots in a time division channel. In one embodiment, the invention includes sending a closing message in a first slot from the first terminal to the second terminal to request that the communications stream be closed, listening to the communications stream at the first terminal to determine whether any messages are sent from the second terminal to the first terminal in a slot after the first slot, and closing the stream, if no further messages are received from the second terminal.